THE

# WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, June 13, 1803.

## *Curious* PARTICULARS *relative to the* IRISH.

THE Iriſh evidently are utter ſtrangers to all the various diſeaſes and perſonal deformities produced in other countries, by intenſe heat, intenſe cold, impure water, vitiated air, or exceſſive moiſture. They are ſubject to no endemic malady whatſoever. And as for epidemic complaints, generally borne from the continent on the wings of the eaſt-wind, they ſeem to be rather leſs frequent, leſs pervaſive, and leſs fatal amongſt the inhabitants of Ireland than amongſt thoſe of England. Nor are the former more ſubject than their neighbours to conſumptive, nervous, bilious or ſcrofulous complaints, or obſtructions of any kind; (moſt of which however are as frequently the effects of intemperance, indolence, and luxury, as of climate) nor leſs ſupplied with the means of their removal; there being in almoſt every county ſeveral mineral ſprings varying in ſtrength and ſpecific virtues, and adapted to the cure of theſe and other diſorders.

The natives of Ireland may certainly be ſaid to be long-lived, as the labouring country poor, who ſubſiſt, in four or five and twenty counties out of thirty-two, entirely on potatoes and ſour milk or water, live, for the moſt part, where ſpirituous liquors are not uſed to exceſs, to ſeventy years, and work at that age, very many to fourſcore, and ſeveral to one hundred: and it is but reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that if the food of this laborious claſs of men were more nutritive and ſubſtantial, they would exceed thoſe ages. From the other claſſes, whoſe eaſy circumſtances may induce intemperance and indolence, no fair concluſion reſpecting longevity can be deduced. We may, however, obſerve, that thoſe amongſt them who live in the country are rather longer lived than the claſs below them.

In their perſons the Iriſh are particularly happy. Thoſe who happen to be born equally above poverty and below the means of enervating luxury, are, generally ſpeaking, as accurately formed for ſtrength and agility as it is poſſible for men to be. Indeed, in the union of theſe corporeal qualities they excel almoſt all other European nations. Mr. A. Young, and Dr. Adam Smith, ſeem diſpoſed to aſcribe this advantage to their ſubſiſting on potatoes. The former gentleman ſays, "When I ſee the people of a country with well-formed vigorous bodies, and their cottages ſwarming with children; when I ſee the men athletic, and the women beautiful, I know not how to believe them ſubſiſting on unwholeſome food." The latter ſpeaking of potatoes, ſays "The chairmen, porters, and coal-heavers, of London, and thoſe unfortunate women who live by proſtitution, the ſtrongeſt men and the moſt beautiful women perhaps in the Britiſh dominions, are ſaid to be, the greateſt part of them, from the loweſt claſs of people in Ireland, who are generally fed with this root. No food can afford a more deciſive proof of its nouriſhing quality, or of its being peculiarly ſuitable to the human conſtitution." It is, however, well known that the natives of Ireland (not to depreciate that truly valuable root) were at leaſt as robuſt and active before as ſince its cultivation in that country. And it is a fact of general notoriety, that thoſe amongſt them who ſubſiſt partly on fleſh and partly on potatoes, diſplay, in general, much greater bodily vigour and ſymmetry, than thoſe who ſubſiſt on potatoes alone. It is, therefore, to their climate, not to their food, that the Iriſh are indebted for their perſonal perfections. Thus much for the three ordinary indications of a good climate.

Another proof of the mildneſs and ſalubrity of the climate of Ireland may, according to ſome, be drawn from the brute creation. "Horſes, cattle, and ſheep," as Mr. Hamilton remarks, "arrive in Ireland at a degree of perfection unattainable in other countries without infinite expence and trouble." The hunters, the roadſters, the maſtiffs, the far-famed wolf-dogs, and the game-cocks, of Ireland, certainly ſtand almoſt unrivalled for the various qualities which we wiſh to find united, or endeavour, by breeding, to unite in theſe animals.

Before I diſmiſs the ſubject of theſe lines, I muſt notice two facts connected therewith. One is, that owing, as is reaſonable to ſuppoſe, to certain peculiarities in the atmoſphere of Ireland, no venomous animals whatſoever are generated in that country, nor are noxious animals of any deſcription, eſpecially thoſe which injure the fruits of the earth, near ſo common there as elſewhere. The other is, that no country in the world is more exempt, few, if any, ſo exempt from phyſical calamities. Not to mention thoſe which are peculiar to tropical climates and other diſtant latitudes, the ſhock of an earthquake has never yet been

been felt in Ireland: nor is lightning ſo frequent or ſo deſtructive there, as even in England. Many ſummers paſs without a thunder ſtorm; and not one thunder-ſtorm in fifty proves fatal either to man or beaſt.

In ſhort, there appear to be the moſt ample grounds for affirming that no known country upon the face of the earth is, upon the whole, better circumſtanced than Ireland, for a uniform enjoyment of health, vigour, and ſpirits, from the cradle to the grave; that there is none wherein the life of man is leſs expoſed to danger from the elements or from the brute creation; and few in which life may be longer enjoyed.

VIATOR.

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## *Obſervations on the Trade of the Gum of Senegal.*

(Concluded from Page 444.)

DURING the years 1785, 1786, and 1787, the quantity of gum annually brought to the factories of the Deſert and of Cok, amounted to more than eight hundred thouſand pounds weight. The Trarſhar Moors carried alſo every year to Portendick about four hundred thouſand for ſale to the Engliſh.

The three foreſts of Sahal, Alfatack, and Elhiebar, furniſh, therefore, a ſtated quantity of twelve hundred thouſand weight of gum yearly; and, if no part of it were diſpoſed of elſewhere, this branch of commerce alone would render our ſettlements on the Senegal of great importance.

In the beginning of 1784, Mr. Derepentigny cauſed a foreſt of white gum-trees, ſituated ſome leagues to the north of the Senegal and the lake of Goumel, to be examined. This foreſt lies nearly between the fifth and ſeventh degree of eaſt longitude from the iſle of Ferro. It ſtands, like the other three, in the midſt of the white and quick ſands of the Zaarha.

This foreſt conſiſts chiefly of that ſpecies of white gum, which the Moors call dad, and which belongs to one of the five ſorts of acacia gum-trees mentioned by Mr. Adanſon.

This foreſt was known to the old India company, which, with the view of gathering its gum, had formed a ſettlement in the iſle of Bilbas, oppoſite a negro village, called Guerouf; but it could not ſucceed.

The country where this foreſt lies is the property of the two tribes of the Brachnaz and Dormanko. The company was obliged to make a treaty with them, in order to have the gum of this foreſt; and another with the negroes, called Foulhas, and by us the Pouls, for the procuring of a free trade for proviſions.

Theſe treaties being concluded, a ſettlement was begun, and a kind of fort was conſtructed for the factory, to which the Moors brought their gum. But on their departure from the banks of the river, to return to their habitations, the Foulhas roſe upon the company's agents, thinking them too partial to the Moors, and that the factory of Guerouf would be prejudicial to them. Without any regard to the treaty entered into by their firatick or king, with the company, the Foulhas attacked the factory, and took it, maſſacring ſeveral of the people there, and the maſter of a veſſel juſt arrived with materials for building.

The meaſure uſed in the ſale and the purchaſe of gum, is a large wooden veſſel, fixed on the deck of the trading craft, and holding two thouſand pounds weight. The Moors call it a kantar, and we have adopted that name, which was given to it by the Saracen Moors, while they were maſters of Spain, and which the Spaniards and the Portugueſe have naturalized in the countries ſouth of the Zaarha.

Every trading veſſel has its kantar fixed on the deck. At the bottom of the kantar is a ſquare opening, eighteen inches long, and a foot in breadth: to this opening is faſtened a conduit, made of thick ſail-cloth, and communicating with the hold. While the gum is meaſuring, the opening at the bottom of the kantar is ſhut by a ſliding-board; as ſoon as the kantar is filled, the board is drawn away, and the gum falls through the conduit into the hold, where people are waiting to ſtow it.

It will be readily perceived, that additions may have been gradually made to the ſize of the kantar, without being diſcovered or gueſſed by the Moors, who, though cunning and artful, are too ignorant to ſuſpect the conſequence of ſome few inches more in the depth or diameter of this meaſure. They have been of courſe over-reached by our traders, who know perfectly well how to make the moſt of the leſs or larger dimenſions of the veſſels uſed for ſale or purchaſe.

Thoſe who bought their gum from the Moors of the Zaarha have ſucceſſively made uſe of theſe frauds, in order to procure, at the ſame price, a greater quantity of merchandize. Thus the kantar is become, by degrees, ſo advantageous a meaſure to the European traders, that it holds at preſent almoſt four times its former quantity: from little more than five hundred pounds, which were its contents in the India company's time, ſixty years ago, they have now riſen to no leſs than two thouſand.

The gum is paid for to the Moors with pieces of cotton blue cloth, dyed in indigo and manufactured in India. In the trade carried on in the weſtern parts of Africa, they are known by the name of guinea-pieces. They are ſeven or eight ells long, and half an ell broad. They are the chief article in all bargains, and the Moors admit of no other in the gum-trade.

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They have tried in France to counterfeit them, but in vain. The Moors were not to be deceived: they diſcovered merely by the touch, whether they had been manufactured in France or India. Nor was it even to their feel or colour to which they wholly truſted; they aſcertained them chiefly by the ſmell. Thoſe Indian fabrications, and the indigo with which they are dyed, have certainly a peculiar ſcent, which the French manufacturers have not yet been able to imitate.

The real guinea-pieces from India continue invariably in the higheſt requeſt. Nothing can rival, much leſs put an end to, the preference given to them.

From 1780 to 1787, the Moors have conſtantly ſold a kantar of gum of two thouſand pounds weight, for fifteen pieces of this guinea-cloth. No more was ever paid by the gum company, eſtabliſhed in Senegal in 1784, which purchaſed at this price yearly four hundred kantars, valued at eight hundred thouſand weight.

In 1784, when Meſſrs. Derepentigny and Durand projected an augmentation of the gum-trade, the Moors, Brachnaz and Dormankos Moors made an offer to deliver two hundred kantars at Guarouf, in the iſle of Bilbas, and as many at Galam, making altogether eight hundred thouſand weight, for only ten guinea-pieces the kantar.

Let us now review what may be the total produce of the gum-trade, and the benefit reſulting from it to our commerce.

It appears, that the three foreſts of Sahal, Alfatack, and Elhiebar, yielded twelve hundred thouſand weight of gum, which ſold at the rate of fifteen pieces of guinea-cloth for the kantar; and that the Moors have offered to ſell eight hundred thouſand weight additional from the foreſts of Guerouf and Galam, for only ten pieces the kantar: but ſuppoſing, that, on account of the tranſporting the gum from theſe two foreſts, and of the preſents to the Brachnaz and Dormonkos, to induce them to bring it to the fort of Podhor, this gum ſhould alſo coſt fifteen guinea-pieces the kantar, the two millions weight of gum, produced by the five foreſts, would then be ſold for fifteen thouſand guinea-pieces.

The value of theſe pieces has greatly varied. During the war for the independence of North America, they coſt fifty livres the piece; they had varied antecedently from nineteen to twenty livres French money: in 1787, their mean value was twenty-five livres; and we have reaſon to believe, that ſuch at preſent is their mean price. We may conſequently fix the mean price of the kantar now purchaſed in the river Senegal, at 375 livres. This brings the pound of gum to three ſous, ten deniers nearly; but we may reckon that it never will exceed four ſous.

During

During the latter twenty years of the laſt century, the gum of Senegal ſold in Europe at from thirty and forty ſous to three livres the pound: this warrants us to believe, that its mean price might be two livres, four ſous. It were to be wiſhed that merchants could be prevailed upon to ſell it for thirty-five ſous the pound. This being a moderate price would encourage all the manufactures requiring gum: ſeveral tradeſmen, hatters for inſtance, who have endeavoured to ſubſtitute other gums in the ſtead of Senegal, cheaper indeed, but leſs gummy, would naturally return to that of Senegal, were it to become more common, and ſold at a reaſonable price. At thirty-five ſous the pound, the two millions that might be furniſhed from the Senegal would form a branch of commerce, which would produce three millions five hundred thouſand livres, and the profits of which would be very conſiderable, ſeeing the ſmall price required in Africa for its materials. Were it even to riſe ſome deniers ſtill, after deducting the expences attending the trade up the river, and the procuring the commodity, the charges of veſſels lying at Fort St. Louis, and the coſts of their fitting out and freight, with all other expenditures, even then an immenſe benefit would ariſe from the proſecution of this commerce.

While our agents at the Senegal are on good terms with the Moors of the Zaarha, and with the heads of the black tribes dwelling on the ſouth of that river, while they act with a well-concerted policy, our factories will be ſupplied with plenty of gum, and that trade will be carried on with the greateſt facility. It is certainly ſo advantageous, that it fully claims the attention of government.

Immenſe is the quantity of gum produced in the countries in the proximity of the iſle of St. Louis, on the Senegal, and of the banks of that river. The five large foreſts of Sahal, Alfatack, Elhiebar, Guarouf, and Galam, have already been mentioned: but, beſide theſe foreſts, prodigious numbers of gum-trees are found on the banks of this river, and in its iſlands ſcattered every where, and of which it were eaſy to induce the negroes to gather the gum: one or two hundred thouſand weight might be collected in this manner.

In order to forward the gum-trade, and to preſerve a good intelligence with the Moors who ſell it, and induce them to bring the whole of it to our factories on the Senegal, government uſed to make annual preſents, not only to the Mooriſh kings, but alſo to the chiefs and principal perſons, and to the king's interpreters and wives. As theſe preſents were yearly repeated, they obtained the name of cuſtoms. They were firſt brought into uſe by the old India company, for the purpoſes above ſpecified.

When the Engliſh came to the poſſeſſion of the Senegal, in conſequence of the events of the ſeven years war, they followed

lowed the precedents eſtabliſhed in the making of alliances with the princes of the country, as well as with the Mooriſh chiefs. As in the government of their various ſettlements, every thing is judiciouſly concerted, and conducted with order and method; in each of their factories on the Senegal, and on the Gambia, a manuſcript regiſter was kept, containing a circumſtantial detail of the motives for paying, as well as a liſt of the cuſtoms annually paid to the chiefs of theſe African tribes, of the times appointed for their delivery, of obſervations relating to the reſpective importance of theſe chiefs and nations, of inſtructions to be followed in the diſtribution of theſe cuſtoms, and of political conſiderations on the trade of this part of Africa.

This regiſter was ſent by the Engliſh miniſtry to the governor of Senegal, with orders to act conformably to it. Another regiſter of the ſame kind was alſo ſent to the governor of Fort James in the river Gambia. The latter, though having a ſeparate government, was, however, to concert meaſures in conformity with thoſe adopted at Senegal, both places being under one governing direction, called the general government of Senegambia.

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*An American's Deſcription of the Celebration of the Harveſt Feaſt at Bourdeaux, with an Account of the Marriage Ceremonies uſed in France.*

BOURDEAUX, June 23, 1798.

I This day witneſſed one of their public fetês, called the fête of agriculture, which is celebrated on this day, as being the firſt of their month of Meſſidor, or the harveſt month. The name of Meſſidor applied to this month ſhews that the uſual harveſt month of France is from the 23d of June to the 23d of July, which is earlier, I believe, by a full month than the harveſt in England.

This fête conſiſted of municipal officers, adorned with tri-coloured ſcarfs, marching in a proceſſion, in the centre of which was a chariot drawn by oxen. In this chariot, which was covered and decorated with green boughs, twiſted together to form a ſhade, were ſeated four old farmers, having ears of corn in their hats. This proceſſion was attended by the military of Bourdeaux (of which there are not more than five hundred in this large city).

When the proceſſion ſtopped in the public gardens, the military paraded round the chariot, and the band played the different republican airs. The lower orders of the people are mightily pleaſed with theſe proceſſions and fêtes, while the higher orders ſeem to deſpiſe them as mountebank mummery, and the foppery

of

of republicaniſm. The government, however, conſiders theſe inſtitutions in the moſt ſerious light; they hope from them to attach the paſſions and pleaſures of the people to the republican cauſe and to republican ideas. With this view, they give them many republican holidays, ſet off with republican pomp and republican muſic.

Theſe kind of holidays have, I believe, never been introduced before in any country. I remember nothing like them in ancient or modern hiſtory; if we except the annual rejoicings of the Egyptians on the retiring of the waters of the Nile, and the annual cuſtom of the emperor of China holding the plough, as an example to his ſubjects, and as a mark of reſpect to the firſt of arts. It appears to me, that the idea of theſe national holidays was firſt ſuggeſted to the French philoſophers and literati by Marmontel, in his hiſtorical romance called the Incas of Peru. The Peruvians are there repreſented as having annual feaſts of the ſun; fêtes for youth, for marriage, and for old age. The directory have inſtituted annual fêtes for youth, and fêtes for old age; and as for marriage, having ſeen their republican marriages, I think the ſubject too important to paſs it over without a particular deſcription.

I was in the cathedral laſt decade (which is the republican ſabbath), and ſaw ten or twelve couple married. A part of the church was incloſed for the purpoſe, with ſeats at each ſide, and an altar at the extremity, to which one muſt aſcend by ſteps. Upon the altar lay a baſket of flowers, moſt of them the common flowers of the fields; at one ſide ſat the brides and their female friends, all in white, with garlands of white flowers (natural or artificial) on their heads, the ſame in their boſoms; at the other ſide ſat the bridegrooms and the male friends. The incloſure was taken up excluſively by the parties to be married and their friends; but, from the outſide of the incloſure, I ſaw diſtinctly what paſſed within. After the company had been ſome time ſeated, the noiſe of the fife and drum at the church-door, and the diſplay of military ſtandards, announced the arrival of the municipal officers. Their appearance was not much ſuperior to that of conſtables of the watch in England: they were diſtinguiſhed by tri-coloured ſcarfs, and wore their hats on during the ceremony, which is conſidered by the law as a mere civil contract.

Every couple knew the order that they were to go up in to the altar. At the ſignal, which is given by the roll of a drum, the firſt couple, with two or three friends on either ſide, who attended as witneſſes, went up to the altar, and ſigned the marriage contract; they then deſcended, and ſigned their names in two more books or regiſters, which lay upon a table in the centre of the incloſure.

They then ſalute the municipal officer; and a ſhort republican hymn, appropriate to the occaſion, is ſung. That couple then retires from the church with their friends, and another roll of the drum gives the ſignal to the ſecond couple to come forward, and go through the ſame ceremonies. With ſuch a diſplay of military ſtandards and military muſic, you would almoſt ſuppoſe, that the government meant to conſider marriage as a military inſtitution; but the real cauſe is, that, of all ſhews, a military ſhew is the leaſt expenſive, and government wiſhes to have as much ſhew as poſſible at a ſmall coſt. Before the ceremony had begun, I particularly noticed among the females who were within the incloſure, one of about nineteen years of age, who peculiarly attracted my attention by the ſuperior fineneſs of her form and eyes, and the great degree of ſenſibility and ſoul which marked her countenance, which was noble and intereſting in the extreme.

She was, of all the females within the incloſure, the moſt careleſsly dreſſed, not having even the uſual ornaments of flowers in her hair. She was ſo remarkably unadorned (except by nature), that I rather wondered at her coming to this feaſt without a wedding-garment. For a conſiderable time ſhe ſeemed eaſy and careleſs, but a roll of the drum (awful to her as the laſt trumpet) ſeemed to harrow up her whole ſoul; ſhe ſtood up, burſt into tears, and dropped down again upon her ſeat. It was with the utmoſt difficulty that ſhe could be ſupported to the altar, where ſhe ſtood drowned in tears, and hardly knowing where ſhe was, or what was paſſing. From the men's ſide of the incloſure there hobbled out an old fourniſſeur, or contractor, of the army of Italy, who was to be her ſpouſe. Then what there was before of myſtery in her deep affliction became apparent; then one could trace her ſorrow to its ſecret ſource, where it lay concealed among the warm wiſhes and natural deſires of a young heart, formed for enjoying and communicating perfect happineſs.

She went to the church, and was ſacrificed at the altar, in obedience to the advice of friends (which has more weight with girls here than in England); but, when arrived at the altar, ſhe could no longer govern her affliction, or reſtrain her tears. I have ſeen different executions, and have, in different countries, witneſſed very barbarous military puniſhments, but never did I ſee any thing more affecting than this human ſacrifice of a forced marriage.

The old fourniſſeur was ſo ſtupid as to appear quite inſenſible of the great averſion of his young bride, and to conſider her tears and agony as the mere common effects of youthful baſhfulneſs and maiden modeſty. In France, the unmarried girls have uſually not ſo much liberty as in England, while the married women take more; this makes young girls more impatient

to be married; and, when marriages are made without much previous acquaintance, and without mutual affection, in a country where gallantry is ſomewhat the faſhion, huſbands muſt be prepared for the conſequences. This, I believe, is a principal cauſe which gives the French women the reputation of being rather looſe in reſpect to the point of female honour. I am convinced, that when they are united to a man from choice and their own inclination, they are as affectionate and agreeable companions as any in the world, as conſtant, and as much attached, as ready to ſhare his fortunes, and to make any ſacrifices or exertions for his intereſt. There are many perſons here, who are not content with a republican marriage, but get themſelves alſo privately married by a prieſt, according to the forms of the catholic religion. This not only ſatisfies every conſcientious ſcruple, but makes the marriage binding in caſe of a counter-revolution, which is a caſe, as they conſider, by no means impoſſible.

The people here are, at preſent, very much divided between decade and Sunday: government will not allow the ſhops to be ſhut on Sundays, as they conſider that a direct oppoſition to the republican calendar, which will not admit of the Chriſtian æra. The people, on the other hand, will not ſhut their ſhops on decades, or voluntarily acquieſce in the new calendar. The conſequence of this oppoſition is, that the Bourdeaux ſhopkeeper keeps no holiday, or day of reſt, and drudges the whole year round.

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## ANECDOTE *of the* ICHNEUMON.

I Had (ſays M. D'Obſonville, in his Eſſays on the Nature of various foreign Animals) an ichneumon very young, which I brought up: I fed it at firſt with milk, and afterward with baked meat, mixed with rice. It ſoon became even tamer than a cat, for it came when called, and followed me, though at liberty, into the country. One day I brought to him a ſmall water-ſerpent alive, being deſirous to know how far his inſtinct would carry him againſt a being with which he was hitherto totally unacquainted. His firſt emotion ſeemed to be aſtoniſhment mixed with anger, for his hair became erect; but, in an inſtant after, he flipped behind the reptile, and with a remarkable ſwiftneſs and agility leaped upon its head, ſeized it, and cruſhed it between his teeth. This eſſay, and new aliment, ſeemed to have awakened in him his innate and deſtructive voracity, which, till then, had given way to the gentleneſs he had acquired from his education. I had about my houſe ſeveral curious kinds of fowls, among which he had been brought up, and which, till then, he had ſuffered to go and come unmoleſted and unregarded; but, a few days after, when he found himſelf alone, he ſtrangled them every one, ate a little, and, as appeared, had drank the blood of two.

EPITAPH

## EPITAPH *on* MISS SARAH BRISTOWE.

On Wedneſday the 18th of May, 1803,
Died, at POOLE, in the nineteenth year of her age,
MISS SARAH BRISTOWE,
Eldeſt daughter of Mr. JAMES BRISTOWE, of that place.

A pulmonary complaint,
ſuſtained with fortitude and equanimity,
brought her gradually down
to the houſe appointed for all the living.

She united
to manners the moſt engaging,
a diſpoſition truly amiable;
and
to a lovely perſon,
mental endowments of a ſuperior order.

Senſibility of heart,
intrepidity of mind,
and an ardent attachment to the cauſe
of truth and virtue,
were diſtinguiſhing traits in her character.

Endeared
to her family and friends, in an uncommon degree,
great and irreparable is the loſs,
deep and laſting will be the regret,
which her death has occaſioned.

This ſincere, but inadequate tribute of reſpect,
to her affectionate and virtuous memory,
is inſcribed by
A FRIEND.

" Columns and labour'd urns but vainly ſhew
" An idle ſcene of decorated woe;
" The ſweet companion, and the friend ſincere,
" Need no mechanic help to force the tear.
" In heartfelt numbers never meant to ſhine,
" 'Twill flow eternal o'er a hearſe like thine;
" 'Twill flow whilſt gentle goodneſs has one friend,
" Or kindred tempers have a tear to lend."

## STORY *of* DICK *the* NEGRO.

[From Davis's Travels through the United States of America.]

I Was born at a plantation on the Rappahannoc river. It was the pulling of corn time, when 'Squire Muſgrove was governor of Virginia. I have no mixed blood in my veins; I am no half and half breed, no cheſnut-ſorrel of a mulatto; but my father and mother both came over from Guinea.

When I was old enough to work, I was put to look after the horſes; and, when a boy, I would not have turned my back againſt the beſt negur at catching or backing the moſt vicious beaſt that ever grazed in a paſture.

'Squire Southerland had a ſon who rode every fall to look at a plantation on James-river, which was under the care of an overſeer. Young maſter could not go without ſomebody on another horſe to carry his ſaddle-bags, and I was made his groom.

This young chap was a trimmer. The firſt thing he did on getting out of bed was to call for a juley ;* and I honeſtly date my own love of whiſkey from mixing and taſting my young maſter's juleys. But this was not all: he was always upon the ſcent after game, and mighty *ficious* when he got among the negur wenches. He uſed to ſay that a likely negur wench was fit to be a queen; and I forget how many queens he had among the girls on the two plantations.

My young maſter was a mighty one for muſic, and he made me learn to play the banger.† I ſoon could tune it ſweetly; and of a moonlight night he would ſet me to play, and the wenches to dance. My young maſter could ſhake a deſperate foot at the fiddle; there was nobody that could face him at a Congo minuet; but Pat Hickory could tire him at a Virginia jig.

The young 'ſquire did not live long. He was for a ſhort life and a merry one. He was killed by a drunken man who found him *over-ficious* with his wife. The negur man was hanged alive upon a gibbet. It was the middle of ſummer; the ſun was full upon him; the negur lolled out his tongue, his eyes ſeemed ſtarting from their ſockets, and for three long days his only cry was "water! water! water!"

The old gentleman took on to grieve mightily at the death of his ſon; he wiſhed that he had ſent him to Britain for his education; but after-wit is of no uſe; and he followed his ſon to that place where maſter and man, planter and ſlave muſt all at laſt lie down together.

The

* A dram of ſpirituous liquor that has mint ſteeped in it, taken by Virginians of a morning.

† A kind of rude guittar.

The plantation and negurs now fell to the lot of a ſecond ſon, who had gone to Edinburgh to learn the trade of a doctor. He was not like 'Squire Tommy; he ſeemed to be carved out of different wood. The firſt thing he did on his return from Britain, was to free all the old negur people on the plantation, and ſettle each on a patch of land. He tended the ſick himſelf, gave them medicine, healed their wounds, and encouraged every man, woman, and child, to go to a meeting-houſe that every Sunday was opened between our plantation and Frederickſburgh. Every thing took a change. The young wenches, who in Maſter Tommy's time uſed to put on their drops and their bracelets, and ogle their eyes, now looked down like modeſt young women, and carried their gewgaws in their pockets till they got clear out of the woods. He encouraged matrimony on the plantation by ſettling each couple in a log-houſe on a wholeſome patch of land; hired a ſchoolmaſter to teach the children, and to every one that could ſay his letters gave a teſtament with cuts. This made me bold to marry, and I looked out ſharp for a wife. I made my court to a wholeſome girl, who had never bored her ears, and went conſtantly to meeting.

She was daughter to old Solomon the carter, and by moonlight I uſed to play my banger under her window, and ſing a Guinea love-ſong that my mother had taught me. But I found there was another beſides myſelf whoſe mouth watered after the fruit. Cuffey, one of the crop hands, came one night upon the ſame errand. I am but a little man, and Cuffey was above my pitch, for he was ſix feet two inches high, with a chew of tobacco clapped above that. But I was not to be ſcared becauſe he was a big man and I a little one; I carried a good heart, and a good heart is every thing in love.

"Cuffey (ſays I) what part of the play is you acting? *Does* you come after Sall?"—"May be (ſays he) I does."—"Then (ſays I) here's have at you, boy, and I reckoned to fix him by getting the finger of one hand into his ear, and the knuckles of the other into his eye.* But the whore-ſon was too ſtrong for me, and after knocking me down upon the graſs, he began to *ſtomp* upon me, and ax me if I had yet got enough. But Dick was not to be ſcared; and getting his great toe into my mouth, I bit it off, and ſwallowed it. Cuffey now let go his hold, and it was my turn to ax Cuffey if he had got enough. Cuffey told me he had, and I walked away to the quarter.†

My maſter the next day heard of my battle with Cuffey. He ſaid that I ought to live among *painters* (panthers) and wolves, and ſold me to a Georgia man for 200 dollars. My new maſter was the Devil: he made me travel with him hand-cuffed to

* This is what is called gouging.

† The place of abode for the negroes.

to Savannah; where he diſpoſed of me to a tavern-keeper for 300 dollars.

I was the only man-ſervant in the tavern, and I did the work of half a dozen. I went to bed at midnight, and was up an hour before ſun. I looked after the horſes, waited at table, and worked like a new negur. But I got plenty of ſpirits, and that I believe helped me.

The war now broke out, and in one ſingle year I changed maſters a dozen times. But I knowed I had to work, and one man to me was juſt as good as another. When the war ended, I was ſlave to 'Squire Fielding at Annapolis, in Maryland. I was grown quite ſteady, and I married a houſe-ſervant, who brought me a child every year. I have altogether had three wives, and am the father of twelve children, begot in lawful wedlock.

My wife dying of a flux, I was left to the management of my children; but my maſter ſoon ſaved me that trouble, for directly they were ſtrong enough to handle a hoe, he ſold the boys to Mr. Randolph of Fairfax, and the girls to 'Squire Barclay of Port Tobacco. It was a hard trial to part with my little ones, for I loved them like a father; but there was no help for it, and it was the caſe of thouſands beſides myſelf.

When a man has been uſed to a wife, he finds it mighty loneſome to be without one: ſo I married a young girl who lived houſe-ſervant to a tavern-keeper at Elk Ride Landing. It is a good 25 miles from Annapolis to the landing-place; but a negur never tire when he go to ſee his ſweetheart, and after work on Saturday night I would ſtart for Elk Ride, and get to my wife before the ſupper was put away.—Dinah was a dead hand at making of muſh,* but ſhe could not love it better than I. "Dinah (ſays I to her one night) if you was a queen, what would you have for ſupper?"—"Why milk and muſh, Dick," ſays ſhe.—"Concern it Dinah (ſays I), why if you was to eat all the good things, what would there be left for me?"

I did not keep to my ſecond wife long, ſhe was a giddy young gooſe, fond of dreſs, and on a Sunday put on ſuch ſharp-toed ſhoes, that the points of them would have knocked out a moſquito's eye.

I not long after detected her keeping company with another man, and I diſcarded her. This made me wiſh that my firſt wife had not got her mouth full of yellow clay. Half a mile from Annapolis, by the road ſide, is a grave yard. It was here my poor wife was buried. I had often heard tell of ghoſts, and I wanted to ſee if there was any truth in it. I ſtole ſoftly to the hedge that ſkirted the road. Hoga, ſays I, does you reſt quiet? Hoga, does you reſt quiet? Say, Hoga, and quiet old Dick!—I had



* Food reſembling haſty-pudding.

hardly ſaid the words when the leaves began to ſtir. I trembled as though I had an ague. Hoga, (ſays I) don't ſcare me. But in leſs than a minute I ſaw a black head look over the hedge, with a pair of goggle eyes that flamed worſe than the branches of a pine-tree on fire. Faith, ſays I, that can't be Hoga's head, for Hoga had little pee pee eyes. I took to my heels and run for it. The ghoſt followed quick. As luck would have it there was a gate acroſs the road. I jumped the gate, and crawled into a hedge. The ghoſt did not follow—the gate had ſtopped him. But I heard him bellow mightily, and when I peeped over the hedge, I ſaw it was 'Squire Hamilton's black bull.

My maſter at Annapolis being made a bankrupt, there was an execution lodged againſt his negurs. I was ſent to Alexander,† and knocked down at vendue to old 'Squire Kegworth. I was put to work at the hoe; I was up an hour before ſun, and worked naked till after dark. I had no food but homony, and for fifteen months did not put a morſel of any meat in my mouth but the fleſh of a poſſum or a racoon that I killed in the woods. This was rather hard for an old man, but I knowed there was no help for it.

'Squire Kegworth was a wicked one; he beat maſter Tommy. He would talk of ſetting us free; you are not, he would ſay, ſlaves for life, but only for ninety-nine years. The 'Squire was never married; but an old negur-woman kept houſe, who governed both him and the plantation.

Hard work would not have hurt me, but I could never get any liquor. This was deſperate, and my only comfort was the ſtump of an old pipe that belonged to my firſt wife. This was a poor comfort without a little drap of whiſkey now and dan; and I was laying a plan to run away, and travel through the wilderneſs of Kentucky, when the old 'Squire died.

I was now once more put up at vendue, and as good luck would have it, I was bid for by 'Squire Ball. Nobody would bid againſt him becauſe my head was grey, my back covered with ſtripes, and I was lame of the left leg by the malice of an overſeer, who ſtuck a pitchfork into my ham. But 'Squire Ball know'd I was truſty; and though ſelf-praiſe is no praiſe, he has not a negur on the plantation that wiſhes him better than I, or a young man that would work for him with a more willing heart.

There is few maſters like the 'Squire. He has allowed me to build a log-houſe, and take in a patch of land, where I raiſe corn and water melons.* I keep chickens and ducks, turkeys and

† Alexandria.

* Dick's log-hut was not unpleaſantly ſituated. He had built it near a ſpring of clear water, and defended it from the ſun by an awning

and geese, and his lady always gives me the price of the Alexander market for my ſtock.

But what's better than all, maſter never refuſes me a dram, and with the help of whiſkey I don't doubt but I ſhall ſerve him theſe fifteen years to come. Some of his negurs impoſe on him; there's Hinton, a mulatto raſcal, that will run him in debt; and there's Let, one of the houſe-girls, who will ſuck the eggs, and ſwear it was a black ſnake. But I never wronged maſter of a cent†, and I do the work of Hinton, of Henry, and Jack without ever grumbling. I look after the cows, dig in the garden, beat out the flax, curry-comb the riding nag, cart all the wood, tote‡ the wheat to the mill, and bring all the logs to the ſchool-houſe.

awning of boughs. It was in Mr. Ball's peach-orchard. A cock that never ſtrayed from his cabin ſerved him inſtead of a time-keeper; and a dog that lay always before his door was an equivalent for a lock. With his cock and his dog, Dick lived in the greateſt harmony; and notwithſtanding the pretenſion of a white man to ſuperiority over a black one, neither the cock nor the dog would acknowledge any other maſter but Dick.

† The hundredth part of a dollar.

‡ Tote is the American word for to carry.

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## *Particulars of the Hoſiery Manufactory of Lyons.*

WHEN M. Deverninac was appointed prefect of the department of the Rhone, his firſt care was to draw up a ſtatement of the commerce, fabrications, and handicraft buſineſs of Lyons, compared with what they were before the diſaſters that befel that city, formerly ſo flouriſhing.

In the enumeration of the articles that formed this ſtatement, the hoſiery manufacture was forgotten. But, before taking charge of the employment which he now fills, M. Verninac tranſmitted to the miniſter of the interior, an account of that manufacture, which has been publiſhed in the ſtatiſtical collection of M. De Callois.

The hoſiery-manufactory of Lyons may be reputed to hold the ſecond rank in the liſt of its fabrications, whether we conſider the number of hands it employs, or the ſums of money which it brings into France. This manufacture boaſts the excluſive employment of materials entirely of national growth. The ſilks it uſes, the frames and utenſils it works with, and which are perfectly adapted to their purpoſes, the individuals to whom it gives occupation, all belong to France and to French induſtry.

There were at Lyons, in 1789, 2500 looms actually at work: they employed 800 maſters, and 4200 journeymen of all denominations, ſuch as ſmiths, needle-makers, dyers, binders, embroiderers, and others. Every loom yielded, upon an average, yearly 300 pairs of ſtockings, at ſeven livres, mean price, the pair, amounting altogether to about 6,000,000 of livres. The half of this fabrication was exported.

The conflagrations during the ſiege of the city deſtroyed four hundred of theſe looms. They have ſince been replaced: and it is computed, that there are now as many as in 1789; but there are only 1800 in actual employment: workmen are wanting; and beſides, the foreign conſumption is diminiſhed by one half; and the uſe of boots, now generally worn, has leſſened the home trade. Induſtry, however, has opened a new channel: open-work tiſſues are now wrought in imitation of lace, and which, either plain or embroidered, are made into veils, ſhawls, and dreſſes, of which a conſiderable quantity is exported.

The hoſiery manufacture requires, like all others, regulations of police to eſtabliſh the reſpective duties of the various individuals it employs, and to procure to the maſter-tradeſmen ſufficient ſecurity for the ſafety and proper employment of the materials uſed in the buſineſs.

Confident of its ſuperiority to foreign fabrications in this line, that of Lyons ſolicits no other protection from government than to ſtipulate, in its treaties with foreign powers, for its admiſſion abroad upon a fair equality of the duties of entry.

This manufacture, as well as every other of the ſilken branch, claims from government, the protection, care, and encouragement of mulberry-trees, and that it would attend to the neceſſity of replacing the great number of thoſe precious trees that were torn up during the ſtorms of the revolution.

The French hoſiery-manufacture did not begin to flouriſh till the miniſtry of Colbert, to whom the national induſtry is ſo highly indebted. Under his auſpices, the mechaniſm of arts arrived to great perfection. Time and labour were economized, and French productions acquired a noted ſuperiority over others.

An edict took place in the reign of Louis XV. which, by permitting the exportation of looms, was greatly prejudicial to this manufactory. It was repealed, indeed, on the conſequences being heavily felt; but Spain, Portugal, Ruſſia, Germany, and Pruſſia, had already made conſiderable importations: they had procured ſeven or 800 looms from Lyons alone. Not ſatisfied with theſe, they enticed away the ſmiths, the dyers, and other workmen, which proved a ſtill heavier loſs. It was only by means of the great improvements in the mechanical proceſs of this manufacture, that it was able at laſt to repair the damage done to it by the edict of Louis XV.

# POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

## *The* HERMIT.

HOW pleaſant is the hermit's life,
Free from vexation, care, and ſtrife,
He ſpends his happy days;
No thoughts of wealth his cares employ,
Nor frolic mirth, nor feſtive joy,
His nobler paſſions pleaſe.

His ruſhy couch, and frugal food,
Tho' born to every eaſe and good,
Supply his little need;
He ſees the toiling, buſy world,
Drive on with every ſail unfurl'd,
And urge their flying ſpeed.

Wealth is the goal they have in view,
With all its toils and hazards too,
They chaſe the glitt'ring ill;
The object gain'd, all is not right,
For ſoon it palls upon the ſight,
And triumphs o'er the will.

Give me the hermit's life I cry,
Let every worldly pleaſure fly,
With joy I ſcorn the whole;
Money's a glitt'ring ſhow at beſt,
Ill fit to give the boſom reſt,
Or fill the immortal ſoul.

In peace I'd view creation round,
Examine nature, ſenſe, and ſound,
With all below the ſky;
Or ſtudy yon eternal ſphere,
And when I'm call'd without a fear
I'll lay me down and die.

PHAON.

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For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

*Verſes, lately recited by a Pupil of the Rev. Mr. Evans, of Plymouth-Dock, before a numerous and polite Aſſembly.*

THE world, as Shakeſpeare ſings, is all a ſtage,
Where men and women act from youth to age.
While princes, lords, and ladies play their part,
Why ſhould not children alſo learn the art?
The noble art I mean of growing wiſe,
Improving daily, as we grow in ſize:
So ſhall we follow nature's perfect plan,
And riſe in favour both with God and man.
The acorn ſprings aloft by ſlow degrees,
And towers an oak, the monarch of the trees,
That bears as from our ports the merchant's ſtores,
Or Britain's thunder to remoteſt ſhores?

A ſchool

A ſchool another Babel is in ſound,
Where ſundry modes and parts of ſpeech are found.
Such divers languages employ the tongue,
Like chimes or changes regularly rung;
Yet learned ſages urge, with eloquence,
That ſyllables are vehicles of ſenſe.
Firſt clear away the huſk, the ſhell and rind,
The kernel then of flavour ſweet we find;
Greece, Rome, and England yield their choiceſt fruits,
And hungry here we dig for Hebrew roots.

At ſchool our pliant fingers drive the quill,
Or count our numbers with progreſſive ſkill;
We trace the ſhip that rides the foaming main,
Or in the charts ſurvey Britannia's reign.
Like cherubs we look round this earthly ball,
Self pois'd in air, and never doom'd to fall:
Or view the ſun his wheeling planets roll,
The moon's reſplendent globe, and ſtarry pole.

But ſince the ſpecimens diſplayed to-night,
Spare me the taſk our proceſs to recite:
Accept our thanks for that indulgent ear
With which you deign theſe ſpecimens to hear;
Proofs of the warm deſire, I truſt, we feel
To pleaſe judicious friends, and ſhew the zeal
Of faithful teachers, who, with tender care,
Direct our ſtudies, and our minds prepare
To act our part on life's eventful ſcene,
With heart undaunted, and with brow ſerene.

In life's decline, reliev'd of all alarms,
Parents will claſp their offspring in their arms;
And whilſt they ſtrain them to their ardent breaſt,
Exclaim, "In thee, my child, my ſoul is bleſt!"
Thus, if you ſearch thro' nature's wide domains,
You'll find this love, or bliſs parental, reigns.
The vagrant birds that haunt the woods or deep,
Inceſſant vigils o'er their offspring keep:
Train them to ſwim or dive; to pounce or fly;
The lurking ſnare elude, their food deſcry;
And when their ſeaſon on this coaſt is o'er,
To ply their pinions for ſome foreign ſhore;
Both young and old in daring flocks unite,
And wing for diſtant realms their airy flight.

Thus, when our earthly diſcipline is paſt,
We hope to meet in fairer climes at laſt;
Where no rude tempeſt ſhakes the vernal air,
Nor pain or ſorrow ſhade the brow of care;
But parents, kindred, friends, enjoy their reſt,
In balmy groves, and iſlands of the bleſt!

*Taviſtock, May*, 1803. WILLIAM EVANS.

## SOCIAL BLISS.

TRUE ſocial bliſs enlivens like the ſun,
Enjoy'd by all, and yet engroſs'd by none;
She ſtoops, enraptur'd from her heavenly throne,
And makes the pleaſures of a world her own.
She, ſtrong as nature, active as the wind,
On millions ſmiles, impartial, unconfin'd,
And with one boundleſs love embraces all mankind.

ODE

## ODE *for his* MAJESTY's BIRTH-DAY, 1803.

*By* H. J. Pye, *Esq. Poet-Laureat.*

BRITAIN, alas! has woo'd in vain
Reluctant peace, thy placid charms;
Compell'd, she treads once more th' ensanguin'd plain,
Where fame, where freedom, call aloud for arms.
Yet be awhile the battle's sound
In notes of festive triumph drown'd:
Whether the fiends of discord fly
Portentous thro' the fiery sky,
Or, bound in fate's coercive chain,
Howl 'mid th' infernal seats in vain,
On this auspicious day the muse,
Jocund, with grateful voice, her wonted theme pursues.

Amid the boast of tyrant pride,
The pomp of state, the arm'd array,
Can all the shouts of slavery hide
That slaves unwilling homage pay?
No force can shield ambition's head
From noon-tide care, from midnight dread,
When the still monitor within
Searches the abode of blood and sin;
While he who rules with virtuous sway,
Whom freemen glory to obey,
Sees every breast the bulwark of a throne,
His people's surest guard, its sacred rights their own.

Then let the muse, with duteous hand,
Strike the bold lyre's responsive strings,
While every tongue thro' Albion's land
Joins in the hymn of praise she sings;
And labour, from the furrow'd plain,
And commerce, from the billowy main,
With voice symphonious bid arise
That purest incense to the skies,
Above the proudest wreath of fame,
Which ever grac'd the victor's name,
A nation's votive breath by truth consign'd
To bless a patriot king—the friend of human kind!

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## LINES *on* BATHING *in the* SEA.

——LET me wind my way,
Tow'rd the still lip of ocean. Seated there,
Soon let me cast habiliment aside,
And to the cool wave give me. Transport sweet!
Pleasure thrice delicate! Oh! let me plunge
Deep in the lucid element my head,
And rising sportful on its surface play.
Oh joy to quit the fervid gleam of earth,
Leave a faint atmosphere, and soon recruit
Exhausted energy, suspended thus
Upon the bosom of a cooler world!
Oh recreation exquisite to feel
The wholesome waters trickle from the head,
Oft as its saturated locks emerge!
To feel them lick the hand, and lave the foot!
And when the playful and luxurious limb
Is satiated with pastime, and the man
Rises refreshed from the voluptuous flood,
How rich the pleasure to let zephyr chill,
And steal the dew-drops from his panting side!